

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3239

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6562

FOL SENT ACTION NEW DELHI , INFO CALCUTTA, MADRAS FROM BOMBAY
MAY 6, 1977 SIGNED COURTNEY

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 1035

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IN
SUBJ: DETERIORATING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CLIMATE IN MAHARASHTRA

REF: (A) BOMBAY 0847 (B) NEW DELHI 6266

1. LABOR UNREST IN MAHARASHTRA CONTINUES BUT THE LABOR RELATIONS
PICTURE IS SHORT OF THE CRITICAL LEVEL.

2. A CURRENT PROMINANT EXAMPLE OF CLOSURE IS THE LOCKOUT
DECLARED ON APRIL 21 BY THE MANAGEMENT OF FREE PRESS JOURNAL
FOLLOWING A "GO SLOW" BY ABOUT 250 OF THE 450 FPJ EMPLOYEES.
THE WORKERS ARE AGGRIEVED OVER INCREASED WORKLOAD WITHOUT
PAYMENT OF OVERTIME, AND A "FEUDAL" STYLE OF MANAGEMENT.
MANAGEMENT AND LABOR HAVE YET TO MEET. ANOTHER EXAMPLE, WHICH
AFFECTS 100,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN BOMBAY, IS A GO SLOW BY PROPANE
BOTTTLERS. THEIR INTUC-AFFILIATED UNION WANTS A MAJOR
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WAGE INCREASE.

3. OVERALL REPORTEDLY OVER 50 UNITS IN BOMBAY ARE CURRENTLY
AFFECTED BY STRIKES, LOCKOUTS OR GO-SLOWS. A FEW OF THE
LARGER STOPPAGES ARE: (A) VITRUM GLASS WORKS STRIKE IN PROTEST
AGAINST AUTOMATION OF A UNIT AFFECTED OVER 1200 WORKERS;
(B) HINDUSTAN LEVER LTD. STRIKE OVER BONUS AND WAGES (3,500

WORKERS AFFECTED); (C) AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTS OF INDIA (AURANGA-BAD) LOCKOUT FOLLOWING ALLEGED VIOLENCE BY WORKERS OVER BONUS AND WAGE ISSUES (1300 WORKERS AFFECTED); AND (D) FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA GO-SLOW OVER ISSUES RELATING TO BONUS AND TRANSFER OF FEW EMPLOYEES (FCI EMPLOYS 2500 AT THE DOCKS AND OVER 7500 IN GREATER BOMBAY).

4. THESE EXAMPLES TYPIFY THE ISSUES INVOLVED, VIZ. RESTORATION OF BONUS, WAGE REVISION, WITHDRAWAL OF CDS, AND RESCINDING VICTIMIZATION ORDERS ISSUED DURING EMERGENCY. HOWEVER, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, INTER AND INTRA UNION INIGHTING IS A FACTOR IN SOME CASES. THERE HAVE BEEN NO SERIOUS LABOR MANAGEMENT PICKET LINE CLASHES THUS FAR.

5. WHILE TRADE UNIONS, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT HERE ARE CONCERNED OVER THE DETERIORATING INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CLIMATE, SOME INDEPENDENT LABOR SOURCES POINT OUT THAT THESE GROUPS ARE FOCUSING ONLY ON IMMEDIATE ISSUES SUCH AS BONUS, CDS, ETC. AND IGNORING THE BASIC ISSUES OF THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. THINKING IN SHORTER TERM FRAME TERMS, EMPLOYERS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE CURRENT SCENE AND TOLD US THAT IN THE "CHANGED POLITICAL SITUATION" THERE IS MORE SCOPE FOR "OVERT ACTIONS" BY LABOR. ONE SOURCE ATTRIBUTED MOST ISSUES OF DISPUTES TO "POLITICAL" RATHER THAN "ECONOMIC" CAUSES. FOR INSTANCE, INTUC WHICH IN THE PAST TOOK A "PASSIVE ROLE" NOW BECAME "VIOLENT IN PROMOTING THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS.

COURTNEY

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Message Attributes

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